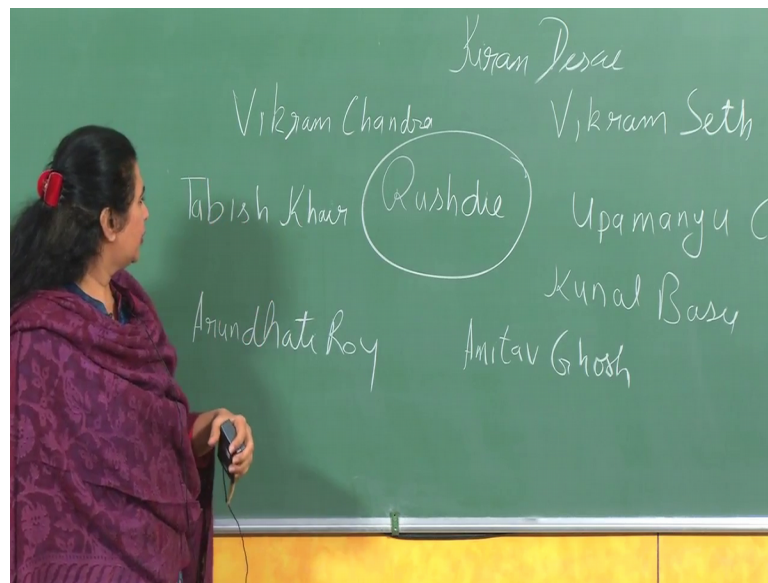


**Literature for Competitive Exam**  
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**Module - 07**  
**Lecture – 29**  
**South Asian Writing in English**

Welcome back friends. So, this is a week 7 and we are into south Asian writing we are also into Indian writing. In English I know that I have been focusing a lot on fiction, but that is the way it is for reasons that I do not want to discuss for the purpose of this course. Now, when we talk about Indian writing in English the great Indian novel, Rushdie at the center.

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So, we are now no longer talking about the earlier masters Mulk Raj Anand the great R. K. Narayan and also Raja Rao. So, we are no longer talking about that generation when we talk about 80s onwards. So, see in the complexion of Indian writing in English changed after the appearance after the publication of midnight's children by Salman Rushdie. And Rushdie onwards we have become more global more international, for a variety of political and cultural reasons, again I do not want to get into the natty gritties of that for this for the purpose of with this course.

Now, there is Rushdie at the center, but then there are greats all around. And younger writers who are still functioning, who are still garnering all kinds of international and national awards. So, we have Tabish Khair, we have Arundhati Roy, Amitav Ghosh, Kunal Basu, Upamanyu Chatterjee, Vikram Seth, Kiran Desai, Anitha Desai of course, Vikram Chandra. Now this is not an exhaustive list. So, let us not get into the political question that why are some names missing and some are not. If they are missing then it is just because of formation and not commission. So, there are some names of course, who are very important Pankaj Mishra for instance, Kiran Nagarkar for instance, so these are extremely important writers who are writing at the moment. We are talking about contemporary writers.

So, in today's class I will be focusing more on practicing test, which focus on these writers. Of course, I will do the first couple of slides and questions would be focused on the earlier generation also. But then, the focus would be on more contemporary authors perhaps they are important or rather more important for your competitive exams. So and of course, you know that the entire cause that we have been doing so far, the idea is to supplement whatever you are doing is of course, not the only thing that you are supposed to do, you have to supplement and compliment it with your major readings also. If you are into for example, the NET-JRF kind, then you have to go for the history of English language and literature, Leavis is the best work, M.H. Abrams is the best work for literary Johnson literary terms.

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1.

- In R. K. Narayan's -----, Vasu, an eccentric taxidermist invades upon the conservative home of Nataraj, a local printer, in the fictional town of Malgudi.

So, let us move on to the practice test. Now the first question in R. K. Narayans dash. So, we have to name the novel. Vasu an eccentric taxidermist invades upon the conservative home of Nataraj a local printer, in the fictional town of Malgudi.

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- a. The Bachelor of Arts
- b. The Dark Room
- c. The Man-eater of Malgudi
- d. The Talkative Man

A the bachelor of arts, b the dark room, c the man eater of Malgudi, d the talkative man.

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## 2. Identify the book:

- “Charat Singh was feeling kind, though he did not relax the grin which symbolized six thousand years of racial and class superiority.”
- Won’t you draw us some water, please? We beg you. We have been waiting here a long time, we will be grateful,’ shouted the chorus of voices as they pressed towards him, some standing up, bending and joining their palms in beggary, others twisting their lips in various attitudes of servile appeal and abject humility as they remained seated.

Next one. Identify the book: Charat Singh was feeling kind, though he did not relax the grin which symbolized six thousand years of racial and class superiority. Would not you draw us some water, please? We beg you. We have been waiting here a long time, we

will be grateful, shouted the chorus of voices as they pressed towards him, some standing up, bending and joining their palms in beggary, others twisting their lips in various attitudes of servile appeal and object humility as they remained seated.

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- a. Coolie
- b. The English Teacher
- c. The White Tiger
- d. Untouchable

A coolie, b the English teacher, c the white tiger, d untouchable.

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### **3. Which work is summarized below?**

- Moraes Zogoiby, the last surviving scion of a dynasty of Cochineal spice merchants and crime lords, is also a compulsive storyteller and an exile. As he travels a route that takes him from India to Spain, he leaves behind a tale of mad passions and volcanic family hatreds, of matriarchs and their mesmerized offspring, of premature deaths and curses that strike beyond the grave.

Next one. Which work is summarize below? Moraes zogoiby, the last surviving scion of a dynasty of cochinese spice merchants and crime lords, is also compulsive storyteller



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- a. The Ground Beneath Her Feet
- b. The Moor's Last Sigh
- c. The Enchantress of Florence
- d. Shalimar , the Clown

And their mesmerized offspring of premature deaths and curses that strike beyond the grave. Which work is summarized here? A the ground beneath her feet, b the moors last sigh, c the enchantress of Florence, d Shalimar the clown.

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**4. The writer is also the author of:**

- a. The Shadow Lines
- b. Joseph Anton
- c. An Equal Music
- d. The Assassin's Song

Number 4. This writer is also the author of a the shadow lines, b Joseph Anton, c an equal music, d the assassins song.

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## 5.

In which novel does Amitav Ghosh describe the lives of the people living in the Sunderbans?

- a. The Hungry Tide
- b. The Shadow Lines
- c. The Calcutta Chromosome
- d. The Sea of Poppies

Next one, number 5. In which novel does Amitav Ghosh describe the lives of the people living in the Sunderbans? A the hungry tide, b the shadow lines, c the Calcutta chromosome, d the sea of poppies.

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## 6.

- *My name is Karim Amir, and I am an Englishman born and bred, almost. I am often considered to be a funny kind of Englishman, a new breed as it were, having emerged from two old histories. But I don't care – Englishman I am (though not proud of it), from the South London suburbs and going somewhere.*

Number 6. My name is Karim Amir, and I am an Englishman born and bred, almost. I am often considered to be a funny kind of Englishman, and new breed as it were, having emerged from 2 old histories. But I do not care - Englishman I am though not proud of it, from the south London suburbs and going somewhere.

(Refer Slide Time: 06:41)

- a. The Palace of Illusions
- b. Midnight's Children
- c. The Buddha of Suburbia
- d. English, August

A the palace of illusions, b midnights children, c the Buddha of suburbia, d English august. So, which work is this passage from?

(Refer Slide Time: 06:53)

**7. Which award did the writer win for this work?**

- a. The Booker
- b. The Commonwealth Prize
- c. The Whitbread Award
- d. The Wales Book of the Year

Next one, number 7. Which award did the writer win for this works, this particular work?  
A the booker, b the commonwealth prize, c the Whitbread award, d the Wales book of the year.

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### 8. The writer is also the author of:

- a. The Namesake
- b. Life of Pi
- c. Moth Smoke
- d. My Beautiful Launderette

Number 8 the underwriter is also the author of: a the namesake, b the life of pi, c moth smoke, d my beautiful launderette.

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### 9. Identify the novel:

- The novel is named after a poem from the [\*Kuruntokai\*](#), an anthology of [Classical Tamil](#) love poems. It was inspired by the autobiography of [James Skinner](#), a nineteenth-century [Anglo-Indian](#) soldier.

Number 9. Identify the novel here: the novel is named after poem from Kuruntokai, an anthology of classical Tamil love poems. It was inspired by the autobiography of James skinner, a nineteenth century Anglo Indian soldier.

(Refer Slide Time: 07:41).

- a. The God of Small Things
- b. Red Earth and Pouring Rain
- c. Swami & Friends
- d. The Oath of the Vayuputras

Which novel are we talking about? A the god of small things, b red earth and pouring rain, c swami and friends, d the oath of the Vayuputras.

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**10.**

Which work by Vikram Seth is set mainly in London and Vienna with excursions to Venice and northern England?

- a. The Ground Beneath Her Feet
- b. Two Lives
- c. Beastly Tales
- d. An Equal music

Number 10. Which work by Vikram Seth is set mainly in London and Vienna with excursions to venice and northern England? A the ground beneath her feet, b Two lives, c beastly tales, d an equal music.

(Refer Slide Time: 08:13)

**11.**

In which novel by Kiran Nagarkar does the protagonist become fascinated by a film starring Shammi Kapoor and Asha Parekh?

- a. Ravan & Eddie
- b. Cuckold
- c. The Extras
- d. God's Little Soldier

Number 11. in which novel by Kiran Nagarkar does the protagonist become fascinated by a film starring Shammi Kapoor and Asha Parekh? A Ravan and Eddie, b Cuckold, c the extras, d gods little soldier.

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**12.**

What's the name of the uncle, also a Rhodes scholar, pickle baron, and radical Marxist, in *God of Small Things*?

- a. Joe
- b. George
- c. Chacko
- d. Ammo

Number 12. What is the name of the uncle, also a Rhodes Scholar, pickle baron, and radical Marxist, in god of small things? A Joe, b George, c Chacko, d Ammo.



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### 13. Identify the work

The plot is set in Benares and is about Samar, a Civil Service aspirant. Samar comes into contact with Rajesh, an impoverished fellow Brahman, a hanger-on at the university; and Miss West, an English woman.

Number 13. Identify the work: the plot is set in Banaras and is about Samar, a civil service aspirant. Samar comes into contact with Rajesh, an impoverished fellow Brahman, a hanger on at the university; and Miss West an English women.

(Refer Slide Time: 09:06).

- a. A Suitable Boy
- b. The Romantics
- c. Nectar in a Sieve
- d. Fasting, Feasting

Number a, a suitable boy, b the romantics, c nectar in a sieve, d fasting feasting. This novel by Rohinton Mistry is set in mid 1970s India And is narrative about 4 unlikely characters who come together in circumstances no one could have foreseen soon after the government declares a state of internal emergency.

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## 14.

- This novel by Rohinton Mistry is set in mid-1970s India and is narrative about four unlikely characters who come together in circumstances no one could have foreseen soon after the government declares a 'State of Internal Emergency'.

(Refer Slide Time: 09:37)

- a. Such a Long Journey
- b. Family Matters
- c. A Fine Balance
- d. The Scream

A such a long journey, b family matters a, c a fine balance, d the screen. So, which novel are we talking about?

(Refer Slide Time: 09:48)

## 15.

- The plot of this Girish Karnad play is derived from Thomas Mann's retelling of a story in The Transported Heads.
  - a. Bali
  - b. Hayavadana
  - c. Broken Images
  - d. Nagamandala

Next number 15. The plot of this Girish Karnad play is derived from Thomas Mann's retelling of a story in the transported heads. The story here is retold, the retold story of the transported heads by Thomas Mann. A Bali, b Hayavadana, c broken images, d Nagamandala.

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## 16

- The play is by Manjula Padmanabhan. The story is about a young organ donor named, "OM", who volunteers his organs to an American woman and the consequences that come with such a decision. It is considered a futuristic satire on how Third World Countries are being taken over by First World Countries

Number 16. The play is by Manjula Padmanabhan. The story is about a young organ donor named Om, who volunteers his organs to an American woman and the

consequences that come with such a decision. It is considered a futuristic satire on how third world countries are being taken over by first world countries.

(Refer Slide Time: 10:39)

- a. Harvest
- b. Tara
- c. Yayati
- d. Silence! The Court is in Session

A harvest, b Tara, c Yayati, d silence the court it is in session. As I have already cautioned do not assume that all these are by Manjula Padmanabhan, but you need to know which one is by Manjula Padmanabhan.

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### Answers

1. C. The Man-eater of Malgudi
2. D. Untouchable by Mulk Raj Anand
3. B. The Moor's Last Sigh by Salman Rushdie
4. B. Joseph Anton by Salman Rushdie
5. A. The Hungry Tide
6. C. The Buddha of Suburbia by Hanif Kureishi
7. C. The Whitbread Award

So, let us discuss the answers here. The number one is, c. The man eater of Malgudi, Vasu Nataraj and taxidermist. Vasu who sort of imposes himself on Nataraj the printers

life. It is a hilarious novel something that I strongly recommend. So, answer is, c the man eater of Malgudi Kumar the elephant also appears in this novel. Number 2 is, d untouchable by Mulk Raj Anand. Number 3, b the moors last sigh, again a very postmodernist novel by Salman Rushdie. A number 4 is, b Joseph Anton by Salman Rushdie. By the way, in the third question all the titles listed are by Salman Rushdie. Number 4 is, b Joseph Anton by Salman Rushdie. thus 3 novels are not by him. Number 5 a Sundarbans Amitav Ghosh is the hungry tide.

A number 6 is, c the Buddha of suburbia by Hanif Kureishi an important south Asian by an important writer from the south Asian part of the world. He is a British indow or Pakistani British writers. So, Hanif Kureishi and the book also won the Whitbread award. So, number 7 is, c number 8 is, d my beautiful launderette which is play a screenplay and also a movie all by Hanif Kureishi.

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8. D. My Beautiful Launderette
9. B. Red Earth and Pouring Rain
10. D. An Equal Music
- 11 . A. Ravan & Eddie
12. C. Chacko
13. B. The Romantics by Pankaj Mishra
14. C. A Fine Balance
15. B. Hayavadana
16. A. Harvest

So number 9 is, b red earth and pouring rain by Vikram Chandra. The title is based on a classical Tamil love poem. Number 10 is, d an equal music this is Vikram Seths, an equal music. A number 11 is a Ravan and Eddie. The protagonist Ravan gets upses by film called [dil dekhe dokho] starring Shammi Kapoor and Asha Parekh. Number 12 is, c the uncle's name is Chacko. Number 13 is, b the romantics by Pankaj Mishra. Set on the bank or the Ghats of the Ganges Banaras. Number 14 is, c Rohinton mistry's a fine balance. Number 15 is, b the story of the transposed heads is reworked and retold in

Girish Karnads hayavadana. And the last one is a Manjula Padmanabhans harvest, which is also made in a film adapted for the film called deham it is body.

So, what have we done today? We have looked at certain landmarks of south Asian and also Indian writing in English. We have done some place we have looked at certain place, but majority of it is fiction of course. By virtue of this being a more popular kind of a genre. So, the idea is to go through these works. The summary of these work see, the other day I came across a question that Kumar the elephant appears in which novel of R. K. Narayan. Now you have to understand that these are tricky questions, you have to read the novel properly. Whether you are doing history of English language and literature or you are doing a course like this, you have to read the works. A course like this can be an excellent supplement for the main reading.

So, novels have to be read plays have to be read literary theory and criticism you have to read yourself. We have just given you pointers towards what to read and what approach to take.

So thank you very much, in our last week we are going to focus on world literature particularly European and a little bit of more British and American literature so.

Thank you very much.